

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please label Fig. 1 with the legend "*prior art*" as indicated on the marked-up and replacement sheets set forth in the Appendix following page 7 herein.

REMARKS

The legend “*Prior Art*” was added to Fig. 1, as required.

Claims 33-44 was canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application for the canceled method claims.

Claim 23 was amended, as recited in claim 24, to begin with the phrase “a microwave monolithic integrated circuit”.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are not obvious in view of the applied art.

The Examiner appears to be alleging that it would be obvious to make the terminations of Watanabe removable, and cites Sweeney as showing that removable terminations are desirable. However, we would submit that the teaching of Sweeney is not applicable to Watanabe. In Sweeney, it would be useful, as it is taught, to make the terminations removable, in order to introduce calibration signals to the circulators 18a-d (which then could be reversed in direction according to the paragraph bridging pages 11-12). This introduces a calibration signal into the receiver channels 25a-d, which are processed and mixed as described at page 12. Accordingly, the operation of the frequency downconverter downstream of the circulator can be calibrated.

Conversely, Watanabe discloses a variable attenuator. This is disclosed separately from any other components of the circuit. We would ask the Examiner where the motivation to introduce a calibration signal at one of the terminated ports of the circuit of Watanabe would be. What is to be calibrated, and why would the skilled man implement the teachings of Sweeney to calibrate a downstream downconverter in a simple attenuator with nothing downstream from it? If the termination at point 12, for example, was removed so that a calibration signal was to be

introduced one would also have to introduce a further termination at point 11, and swap the terminations at points 21 and 22 in order for the circuit to work correctly. This is not simple, and it would lead to errors in attaching terminations to the normally unterminated points. This would also lead to the putative calibration signal being produced at a normally terminated point that would not normally have anything connected to it - therefore not being useful for calibrating downstream circuit components according to the teaching of Sweeney. Even if the skilled man were therefore to consider applying the teaching of Sweeney to Watanabe, once he realized it would not yield a useful result, he would not consider the matter any further and so would not arrive at the invention claimed.

Furthermore, we would observe that we claim a removable integrated termination. All of the prior art we are aware of teaches one or the other. In Sweeney, the terminations are removable and replaceable once the normal, rather than calibration, mode of operation is desired. There would be no point in calibrating the downconverter if the circuit was not then capable of being reused in normal operation. In Watanabe, the apparently integral terminations are a permanent feature of the operation of the circuit. It is inherent in the teaching of Sweeney that the terminations are replaceable and so we would ask what document teaches that it is possible to provide replaceable and removable integral terminations. Without teachings on how to make replaceable integrated terminations, the skilled man would not think of implementing the teachings of Sweeney as they are an essential element of Sweeney's teachings.

The Examiner states that the "device" (presumably the circuit of Watanabe) has the same structure as the presently claimed invention and so "obviously" can be used as part of a test device in the manner as the present invention claims. We are not entirely sure what point the

Examiner is trying to make, but he appears to be applying hindsight to say what could be done with the circuit of Watanabe. He is asked to cite documentary evidence to show what the skilled man would have considered obvious.

We would therefore submit that the skilled man would not choose to make the terminations of Watanabe removable having considered any of the prior art of which we are aware, and in particular Sweeney. The claims are all therefore novel and inventive.

In keeping with applicant's duty of candor, enclosed is Form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed reference is enclosed along with the Rule 17(p) fee of **\$180.00**.

Petition is hereby made for a two-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to February 10, 2008. A check in the amount of **\$460.00**, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

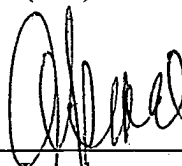
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MARKED-UP SHEET

1 / 2

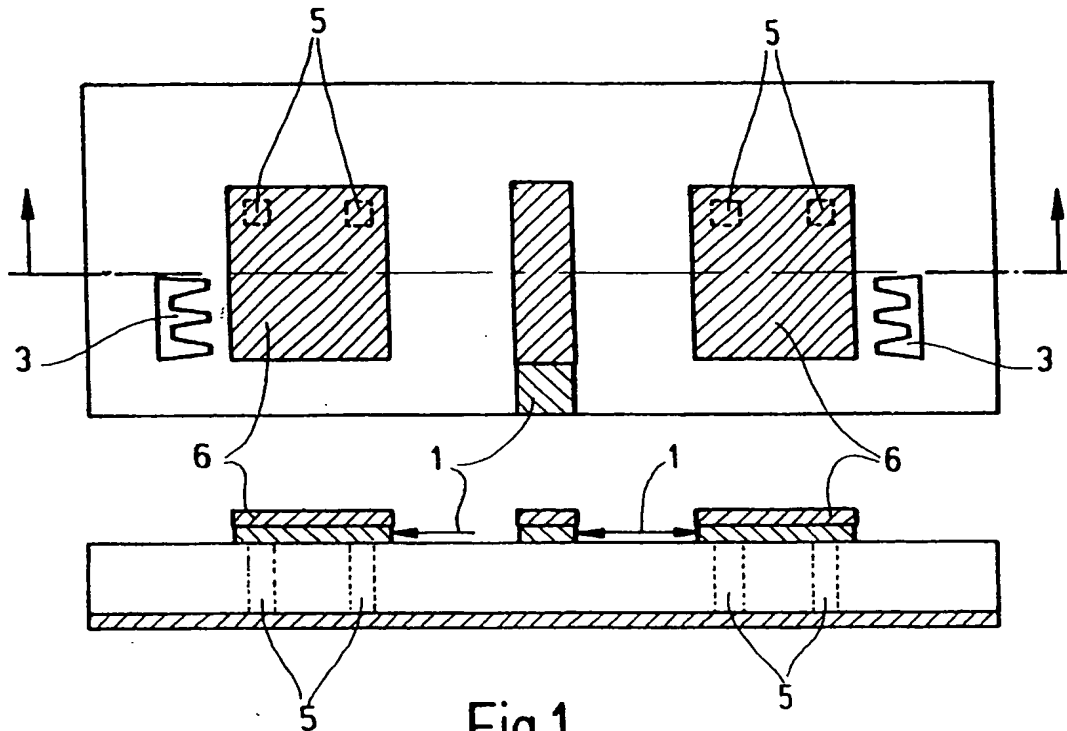


Fig. 1
Prior Art

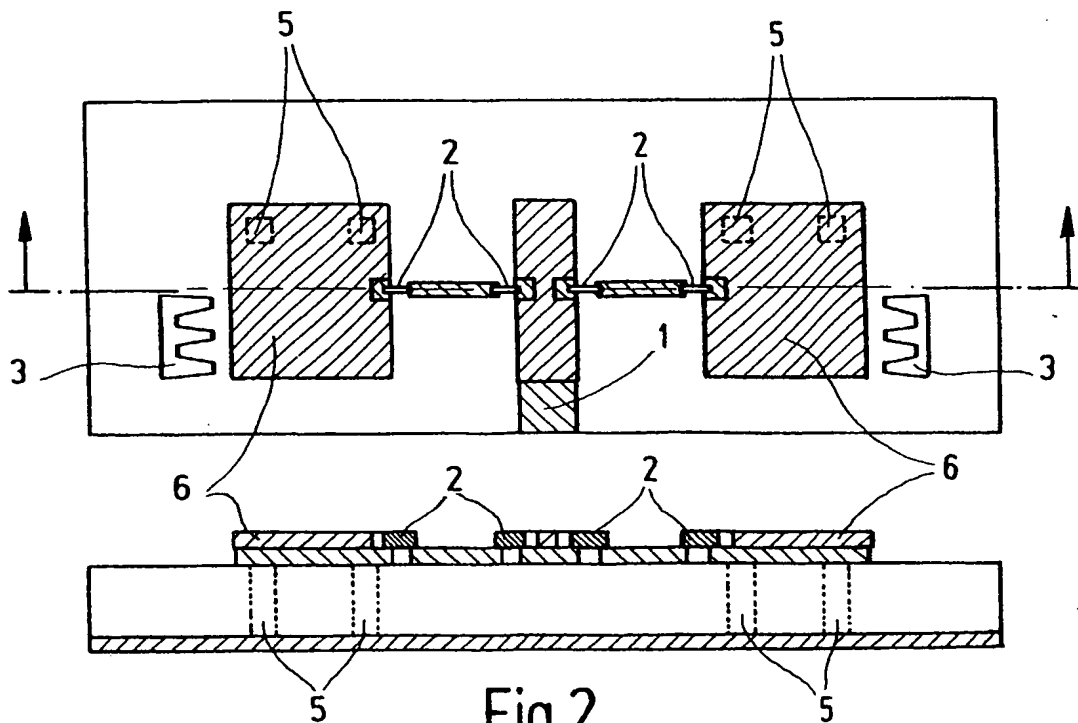


Fig. 2